

## TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC.

established 1904.

## BULLETIN

<http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/tasfield/>Editor : Don Hird. (email [hirddd@primus.com.au](mailto:hirddd@primus.com.au))

January 2001

Bulletin No. 301 (quarterly)

The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club encourages the study of natural history and supports conservation. We issue our journal *The Tasmanian Naturalist* annually in October. People with a range of ages, background and knowledge are welcome as members.

Contact Genevieve Gates (6227 8638) for further information or GPO Box 68A, Hobart, 7001.

**Program**

General Meetings start at 7.45 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery entrance in Macquarie Street. Bring lunch and all-weather outdoor gear.

*If you are planning to attend an outing but have not been to the prior meeting, phone to check as to the timing of the excursion (with Genevieve Gates; 62 278 638 or Don Hird; 62 344 293).*

*Unforeseen changes sometimes occur.*

Thurs. 1 February. 7.45p.m.: Clare McArthur, University Zoology Dept., will speak about alternative strategies to the extensive use of 1080 poison against browsing mammals in Tasmania.

Sunday 4 February 10.00 a.m.: A general purpose excursion to an interesting area of "remnant rainforest" at Yarlington Tier, east of Kempton Quoin. A short but slightly scrubby walk gains access to the area of interest. Afterwards we plan to visit another botanical outlier, this time an isolated stand of Spinning Gum, *Eucalyptus perrineana*, near Tunnack.

Thurs. 1 March. Annual General Meeting and President's Address..

Sat. 3 March. 9.00 a.m.: Collins Cap is both accessible via a moderate walk and a fine viewing platform over the middle Derwent estuary. On the way to the dolerite summit are some very interesting habitats of subalpine vegetation over Triassic sandstone substrates.

Thurs. 5 April. Rob Allison will speak on *Three Hummock Island*, off NW Tasmania, where he runs an ecotourism facility.

April Excurs. We are planning a weekend away, possibly based around the Forestry house at Adventure Bay, Bruny Island. More details will be provided closer to the excursion. *Mt Mangana, Cape Puer, Elizabeth*

**2001 SUBS. DUE NOW**

Subscriptions are normally due by the end of the prior calendar year. Rates for 2001 are

Adults	\$25	Junior / concession	\$20	Family	\$30
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The *Peter Rankin Trust for Herpetology* offers financial assistance to worthwhile research projects on the biology of reptiles or amphibians. Committee members can provide details of how to apply.

We are saddened to report the passing of two prominent Tasmanian naturalists, Marcus Hurburgh of this club and Mary Cameron of Launceston Field Nats. Obituaries will appear in the next Bulletin.

## Federation News

The next meeting of the Federation of Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Clubs will be held on the weekend of 16 – 18 March 2001 at the *Carnacoo* Scout Camp at Paper Beach on the West Tamar.

The agenda includes a visit to a local bird reserve on the Saturday morning and to Mt George in the afternoon. There will be a catered meal in the evening, following the formal federation meeting (for delegates).

On the Sunday there will be a microscopy session followed by a visit to the native plants garden of John and Marian Symmons.

## Marine Naturalists

On the March long weekend the Marine Naturalists' Group is organising an excursion to Waterhouse Island in NE Tasmania. Committee members can provide contact details.

## EXCURSION REPORTS

### Koonya - 4/5 November 2000

Tom Terry

By Saturday morning our group of ten had settled into the University accommodation at Koonya. A good selection of bush birds were evident around the site.

Our first stop was the the Coal Mine Historic Site. A crow chasing a juvenile White Bellied Sea Eagle and a Striated Pardalote attending a nest in a sandstone wall were highlights. Driving onto Lime Bay we carried our lunch to Lagoon Beach. There was a modest range of orchids along the track together with sea-birds in the appropriate places. We returned to the car along the southern side of Sloping Lagoon. A late circuit from the car park turned up more orchids and weary limbs. After dinner we commenced the evening on a scientific note with microscopic observations of plant parts. A very social and humorous evening followed.

Sunday commenced with very heavy rain which cleared before we left. An interesting observation during breakfast was a pair of Ground Thrush carrying nesting materials. First stop for the day was the start of the Cape Pillar Track where the 'Fungi Folk' were starting to get into the swing of things. Second call was Fortescue Bay where we turned up some particularly noxious brown toadstools (*Leprocye* sp.). Close to where we had lunch on the beach a Pied Oyster Catcher was sitting on two eggs. On the way home we stopped at the Camp Creek Nature Reserve near Taranna and enjoyed wandering through an attractive piece of rain forest.

It was a very enjoyable and varied weekend. I am sure many other members would have enjoyed the trip.

**Orchid list:** Saltwater River and Lime Bay track to lagoon, 04/11/00.

<i>Acianthus pusillis</i> (finished)	<i>Dipodium roseum</i> (immature)	<i>Thelymitra juncifolia</i>
<i>Caladenia atrata</i>	<i>Diuris sulphurea</i>	<i>T. ixioides</i>
<i>C. gracilis</i>	<i>Gastrodia sesamoides</i>	<i>T. pauciflora</i>
<i>Caleana major</i> (immature)	<i>Glossodia major</i>	<i>T. rubra</i>
<i>Chiloglottis grammata</i>	<i>Prasophyllum</i> sp. (seed pod stage)	
<i>Chiloglottis</i> sp. (leaves only)	<i>Pterostylus nutans</i>	
<i>Cyrtostylus robusta</i> (leaves only)	<i>P. plumosa</i>	

Orchid list: Fortescue Bay and Cape Pillar Track, 05/11/00.

<i>Caladenia fuscata</i>	<i>Pterostylus nutans</i>	
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<i>Caladenia</i> sp.	<i>Pterostylus pedunculata</i>	
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*Species list of fungi observed during the TFNC weekend at Tasman House, Koonya*

4-5 November 2000

Compiled by Genevieve Gates

(species preceded by an asterisk are target species of the FUNGIMAP project)

Saltwater river

*Bertrandia astatogala*  
*Cortinarius* spp. (x2)  
 \**Amanita xanthocephala*  
*Gastrum* sp.  
*Xylobolus illudens*  
*Thelephore*-buff  
*Psathyrella* sp.

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Lime Bay

*Amanita*-grey  
*Amanita*-ethyl acetate odour  
 Puffball-olivaceous  
*Agaricus* sp.  
*Agrocybe*-small

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Cape Pillar

*Amanita*-grey  
*Russula* with olivaceous, buff cap with some pink hues, white gills and  
 white stipe with pink flush  
 \**Stereum ostrea*  
*Mycena viscidocruenta*  
*Collybia butyracea*  
*Hydnum repandum*  
*Thelephore*-"thin brown bruiser"  
*Stropharia formosa*  
 \**Anthracoophyllum archeri*  
*Meruliopsis corium*  
*Calocera* sp.  
*Galerina* sp.  
*Zelleromyces* sp.  
*Panellus stipticus*  
*Hypocrea sulphurea*  
*Hypoxylon rubiginosum*  
*Marasmiellus affixis*  
*Agaricus* sp.  
*Marasmius* sp.  
*Psathyrella* sp.  
 Bolete-soft, caramel brown.

Fortescue Bay

\**Amanita xanthocephala*  
*Pholiota* sp.  
*Cortinarius* sp.- volvate  
 Earthballs-4 species

*Mycena austrofilopes*  
*Mycenastrum corium*  
 Bolete-reddish brown cap, red stipe, red pores and yellow tubes bruising blue  
*Laccaria* sp.  
*Inocybe* sp.  
*Cortinarius* sp.- lilac  
*Lactarius eucalypti*  
*Stropharia formosa*  
*Leprocybe primavera*  
*Coltricia oblectans*  
 \**Mycena viscidocruenta*  
*Polyporus* sp.

#### Taranna forest walk

*Lactarius eucalypti*  
*Laccaria* sp.  
*Daldinia concentrica*  
*Exidia glandulosa*  
*Thelephora*-"thin brown bruiser"  
*Phellinus* sp.  
 \**Aseroe rubra* "egg"  
*Mycena* "campanulata"  
*Lachnum lachnoderma*  
*Flammulina velutipes*  
*Psathyrella echinata*  
*Collybia eucalyptorum*,  
 Slime mould-raspberry pink  
*Entoloma* sp.  
 Polypore-ochraceous upper and yellowy beneath  
*Marasmius*-"horse-hair"  
 \**Anthracoophyllum archeri*  
 \**Plectania campylospora*  
 \**Stereum ostrea*  
*Hygrocybe mavis*  
*Tricholoma*-grey  
 \**Mycena viscidocruenta*  
*Russula*-as at Cape Pillar  
*Russula* with dark purple cap, purple stipe and white gills  
*Collybia*-small *butyracea* type  
*Entoloma aromaticum*  
*Mycena* "grey"  
*Discinella terrestris*  
*Inocybe*-brown  
*Coltricia oblectans*  
 \**Tubaria rufofulva*  
*Mycena*-on wood, very small, white, fragile with adnate gills and no odour  
*Scutellinia* sp.  
*Armillaria novae-zelandiae*  
*Mycena*-on wood, very small, white, fragile with decurrent gills  
*Dermocybe* sp.  
*Australoporous tasmanicum*  
*Mycena pura*  
*Bisporella citrina*

Genevieve Gates

**Snug Tiers : December:**

Genevieve Gates

The December outing was held at Snug Tier, an area oft visited by the club because of its botanical interest and proximity to Hobart . . . . . very attractive in the frenzied weeks prior to Christmas.

David, Don, Wesley – a young friend of Don's from the Trobriand Islands, PNG, and Myself set off from the museum at 9a.m. Although lacking in numbers we were a team of high calibre being highly motivated, intelligent and good looking !!!

As we had been given strict instructions by Prof. Jackson at the meeting to look out for the diploid and tetraploid forms of *Stylidium graminifolium* we diligently examined and measured the leaves of all trigger plants encountered along the fire trail but only the smaller diploid plants were found, i.e. those with leaves 3mm or less wide.

Quite a few higher plants were in flower so we progressed at the usual FieldNats pace stopping to examine and drag up names from the depths of an atrophying pre-fungal-studies brain, assisting each other and enduring good hearted ribbing at each others misidentifications. A few sad fungi put in an appearance including two corticoid or "paint fungi" on wood and the very interesting "stone fungus" *Mesophellia* sp. These looked just like small clay coloured dolerite pebbles the size of marbles, with a very hard outer peridium (layer) and a soft central core of sterile tissue surrounded by a powdery spore mass. When the spores are mature the fruiting body produces an odour attractive to marsupials such as potoroos and bandicoots which excavate them as food, thus acting as effective dispersal agents as in breaking the peridium they broadcast spores, but they also ingest large quantities of spores which pass unharmed through the digestive tract. Often only the outer shells of stone fungi are found (usually at marsupial diggings) but by excavating further we found more ( ? immature) fruiting bodies.

After a pleasant lunch break during which Don and I had a mini committee meeting sorting out the accumulated mail we retraced our steps to the car.

A highlight of this day for Wesley and indeed the rest of us was the echidna we saw on the roadside just before the carpark. Previous to this sighting Wesley had only seen an echidna in a cage at the Hobart Show. The echidna did not behave in the usual fashion, i.e. rolling into a ball and trying to get out of sight, instead it scampered around with Wesley and camera hot on its heels for a reasonable length of time in the open, enabling us to observe it quite closely.

Some higher plants observed in flower included

<i>Bauera rubioides</i>	<i>Goodenia lanata</i>	<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i>
<i>Callistemon viridiflorus</i>	<i>Hibbertia</i> sp.	<i>Pultenaea daphnoides</i>
<i>Comesperma volubile</i>	<i>Melaleuca squamea</i>	<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>
<i>Cyathodes</i> spp.	<i>Olearia phlogapappa</i>	<i>Thelymitra</i> spp.
<i>Drosera pygmaea</i>	<i>Pentachondra involucrata</i>	<i>Westringia</i> sp.

I would like to thank all the members who made the September outing to Luckman's Hut on Mt Wellington a real day to remember.

Field Nat and SGAP members and friends gathered to remember Sue Collier, and see a beautiful rustic huon pine seat set in place in her memory outside the hut on the mountain she and Phil knew so well.

The day was warm and still as we made our way from the road across the snow to the hut. The advance party thought of everything to make the day go without a hitch – the wood for the fire as well as the necessary materials and tools needed to set the seat in place.

An endless supply of food kept appearing from the hut, to the rocks outside where we gathered in the sunshine for lunch and to reminisce about the happy times with Sue and Phil, and all they did for our clubs, especially the botany of Tasmania.

We give thanks for Sue's life and assure Phil of our love and support, as was shown on that day to remember.

contributed by Marjorie Wall

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**In memory of Sue Collier**

**contributed by Gilbert van Munster**

Lord, you turn the wheels of the galaxies. You know what makes the planets spin  
You know why we are here on this mountain.

The snow covers the flora, the fjældmark, the living insects  
the beauty of the winter.  
The dormancy, the silence

Inside of us there is silence when a loved one is gone  
when we stand and our thoughts are roaming the past

It could be an outing  
drifting apart and still together  
to enjoy each other's company, to share the beauty of a flower.

Sue was part of us as a person enjoying the company of the Field Nats.  
There was encouragement of her, participation on the committee and in the field.

A participation in partnership of Sue and Phil  
to enjoy together the wonders of nature  
to roam the mountains and sleep in a tent under the stars  
the hardship of climbing with a pack to be overcome by the surprise of the high.

Nature heals where there is destruction  
where the beauty of a person has gone.

Phil for you there is an emptiness which needs healing  
This seat is a memory, for us to sit and enjoy or meditate  
a seat from us who were part of Sue and Phil  
in wandering this mountain.

**a prayer for the butterfly or a person**

*(Carmen Bernos de Gasztold)*

Lord! Where was I?  
Oh yes! This flower, this sun,  
thank you! Your world is beautiful!  
This scent of the roses . . . Where was I?  
A drop of dew rolls to sparkle in a lily's heart.  
I have to go . . . Where I do not know!  
the wind has painted fancies on my wing  
Fancies . . . Where was I?  
Oh yes! Lord! I had something to tell you :  
Amen.

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